

The Baptist Record

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Computers said powerful tools for world missions

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Could computers complete the evangelization of the world?

Not any more than television, radio, or the printed word can, mission planners say. But information is power in the information age, and in human hands, the modern computer has become a powerful tool Christians are using to gather and share information about the world they want to evangelize.

In short, world evangelization demands world information. "If you've got a global objective like Bold Mission Thrust (the plan to spread the gospel worldwide), you need global information," explains British missionary researcher David Barrett, who is working with Southern Baptist mission strategists. And that information must reach the missionaries, mission agencies and other Christian workers who can use it to take action, he adds.

That's why the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has established the World Evangelization Database, a computer databank. It includes specifics on about 3,000 unevangelized peoples, cities, and countries in the world — their size, location, language, or dialect and the like.

The database also pinpoints crucial factors in each population's exposure to Christianity, such as the availability of translated Bibles or Scripture portions, the number of churches and



trained disciples, the presence of foreign or indigenous missionaries, and the so-called "R factor" — the ratio of unevangelized people to church members within the group.

Collated and analyzed, the data enable researchers to develop a profile of an unreached people group. They can determine almost exactly how unevangelized the group is, allowing strategists and missionaries to make decisions about what must be done to reach the group. "It's very important that we approach each one very seriously and professionally," Barrett insists.

The database itself is anything but static. Researchers are adding, deleting, or revising chunks of information as the world situation changes and new or previously unknown facts become available. Raw data constantly is monitored, updated, and shaped into publishable material. Polished data is used by the mission board's Global Strategy Group for planning purposes and becomes available to missionaries, other mission agencies, researchers, and scholars.

Said Board President R. Keith Parks, "We want to avoid expending time and money to find out things some other group already knows and avoid duplication of efforts in one region to the neglect of unreached population segments elsewhere."

The potential for evangelistic networking and cooperation is enormous, researchers say. They count some 3,800 missionary-sending agencies worldwide with a total force of more than 260,000 missionaries from 200 countries. In addition, Christian institutions of various types number more than 98,000. Hundreds of these organizations are committed to the same goal Southern Baptists proclaim — evangelization of the world by the end of this century.

Barrett believes past attempts to complete the Great Commission have failed because Christians failed to communicate and cooperate with each other.

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.

Soviet policy of 'glasnost' spreads to East Tennessee

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, Tenn. (BP) — As waves of "glasnost" have swept across the Soviet Union, effects of the new openness have rippled all the way to a quiet corner of East Tennessee.

Since the 1985 debut of Mikhail Gorbachev as U.S.S.R. general secretary, political pundits have analyzed the viability and authenticity of his program for "glasnost."

In December, a member of Signal Mountain Baptist Church near Chattanooga added his experience to the growing list of developments in Soviet policy.

In 1977, when psychiatrist Ross Campbell wrote "How to Really Love Your Child" based on Christian parenting, its publication in Russian hardly seemed plausible.

But 12 years and thousands of editions in 30 languages later, the Soviet Union has purchased 500,000 copies of the book — uncensored and unabridged.

A recent call from his publisher relaying the Soviet request represented "a real breakthrough . . . I can hardly believe it."

The book had been one of only a few hundred from the West at a Moscow book fair in 1987. Campbell's publisher wrote him after the fair, describing a woman who entered "with an air of authority." Browsing through the volumes on display, she seemed intrigued with "How to Really Love Your Child," subsequently retreating to a corner for several hours to read it. Upon finishing, she announced: "This is what our people need. I will arrange to have it for our people."

A year later, Campbell received a contract for the reissue of 500,000 copies of his book to be placed in Soviet health centers for the purpose, it stated, of "encouraging Soviet family morals and family living."

"Theoretically," Campbell pointed out, "it has the potential of being in the hands of every Soviet parent."

The former general practitioner's idea for his book sprang from his work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Bolivia, where he saw every imaginable ailment including "really severe psychological problems."

As an alternative to other Christian childrearing aids that, he believed, were "so harsh in their presentation of a punishment-oriented" approach, Campbell wanted to emphasize "the other side — a child's need for love and affection. Children have a hard time accepting a parent's value system if they do not feel loved and accepted by the parent."

Stressing the value system pervasive in "How to Really Love Your Child," Campbell noted, "The last chapter even discusses how to become a Christian, how to be sure your child is a Christian."

Indeed, he notes, passages such as "this personal, intimate relationship with God through his Son Jesus Christ is the most important thing in life . . . , the 'something' which our young people are yearning for" constitute an unlikely text to be printed and distributed under the auspices of a government whose inspiration, Karl Marx, considered religion "the opiate of the people."



Unswerving faith in the midst of persecution has helped Baptists, like this woman worshiping at a communion service in the Soviet Union, survive the constant fear of imprisonment. Recently, however, sources have confirmed that the last Baptist prisoners in Russia have been released, along with all religious prisoners of conscience.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, BJC

Sources report all Baptists freed from Soviet prisons

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Government and other sources have reported that all Baptist religious prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union have been released.

During a briefing for human rights advocates in early February, U.S. State Department officials confirmed reports that all Soviet religious prisoners have been released. Similar confirmation came from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe — known as the Helsinki Commission — and Keston College in Kent, England, which monitors religious freedom in Eastern Europe.

During 1987, 265 prisoners, including 116 Baptists, were held in the Soviet Union because of their religious beliefs, reports indicated.

"Baptists and other believers everywhere should rejoice in this major victory for religious liberty," said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, who attended the State Department briefing. "All who worship him who came 'to preach deliverance to the captives' have a visceral identification with those who are prisoners for the sake of their faith."

"Great joy and satisfaction is ours in their release. We praise the Lord for answered prayer and pledge anew to dedicate ourselves to the free exercise of faith in all lands."

The Baptist Joint Committee, which since its founding in 1936 has brought

pressure on numerous governments to recognize religious freedom as a fundamental human right, has worked for the last two years for the release of the Soviet religious prisoners.

Dunn and another Southern Baptist — Olin Robison, president of Middlebury College in Vermont and one of the country's acknowledged experts on the Soviet Union — met in September 1987 with then-Secretary of State George P. Schultz to discuss amnesty for the prisoners. They continued working with Schultz and his staff to advance negotiations with the Soviets for the prisoners' release.

Another BJC staff member, Victor Tupitz, spent a six-month study leave in Germany and England researching the issue. Since his return, Tupitz has been a member of the Ad Hoc Religious Freedom Committee in Washington, working toward release of the religious prisoners.

The BJC also has worked closely on the issue with the Helsinki Commission and its chairman, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md. Hoyer is a Southern Baptist layman.

Last October, members of the BJC adopted a position statement on religious liberty in the Soviet Union. The BJC commended that nation and its leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, for making "progress toward religious freedom," including an increase in the number of prisoners granted amnesty or prison term reductions.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Our Washington representation

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, during its meeting late last month, voted to propose the establishment of a Religious Liberty Commission. The vote was 42 in favor of the new agency and 27 against it.

That does not mean that a new agency will be established. It does mean that the first hurdle has been cleared.

For the new Religious Liberty Commission to become a reality, the issue will have to be accepted by two consecutive conventions — the one at Las Vegas in June and the one at New Orleans in 1990.

A great deal of the time was consumed during the Executive Committee meeting in dealing with the new commission concept and with the funding for Southern Baptists' present religious liberty agency, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The funding for both of the agencies and the budget for the Southern Baptist Convention entered into consideration. For the 1989-90 budget year, all agencies are taking a 2.05 percent decrease in Cooperative Program income. Thus the Baptist Joint

Committee, already trimmed from \$448,000 to \$400,000, will be trimmed further to \$391,800 — if that figure holds up. Some members of the Executive Committee are determined to cut its Cooperative Program income to about \$50,000.

In the midst of all of the economizing comes the push for a new agency, the first one in 29 years. No one knows what it will cost to put the proposal into operation, but estimates run as high as \$750,000.

According to predictions and experiences, the money won't be there. If the convention votes to do it, however, it will be done regardless of income. The concept flies in the face of the new budget arrangement which dictates that a new budget will be proposed for no more money than the total income of the previous year.

So if the income for a year were to be \$120 million, the new budget would be for no more than \$120 million. If a new agency were to be established that demanded an expenditure of \$750,000, the money would have to come from the already established budget hopes of all of the other agencies.

Mississippi is experiencing this crunch this year because of the convention's vote to grant the request of Mississippi College for \$145,000 extra in order to have extra funding for Clarke College in addition to the regular funding for Mississippi College. If the extra funding does not come in, all of the other entities of work, including Mississippi College, will chip in to make it available to Mississippi College.

The same would be true with the Religious Liberty Commission, if it were to be voted into existence. It would be funded involuntarily by all of the other agencies unless the money to fund it were forthcoming. This would include the two mission

boards.

All of this is being considered in spite of the fact that Southern Baptists have a very effective and money-efficient agency already at work on the Washington scene. The Baptist Joint Committee has been there for more than 51 years, and at no time has it been able to operate more effectively than it is now doing. None of the arguments hold any water that are being used to try to rid Southern Baptists of the agency.

Also, the Christian Life Commission is already seeking money to find a Washington office to deal with moral concerns.

There are complaints that the Baptist Joint Committee fails to follow Southern Baptist wishes as spoken through resolutions. The fact is that resolutions are not binding and cannot be, but only once has the Baptist Joint Committee failed to take a position in accordance with a resolution. That was the one which called for organized prayer in public schools. Baptists historically have opposed organized prayer in public schools except for one year but have supported an equal access for all students to gather as they desire to engage in voluntary prayer at times when there is no class work. Equal access is the law of the land, and it is so because of the efforts of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Some detractors claim that the Baptist Joint Committee supported the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which they thought would force religious groups to hire persons who did not agree with their religious concepts. Such is not the case. The Baptist Joint Committee took no position on the Civil Rights Restoration Act but did manage to have included in the language of the act the fact that it does not apply to religious bodies.

Some object to the "abrasive" style



of James Dunn, but that is a mistake. While his "style" may be judged to be abrasive by some, the fact is that he is operating in a tough, rough and tumble atmosphere; and he has to be tough and rough and tumble to be able to work effectively. When he spoke at the Mississippi Baptist Convention recently, he received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his message.

Another agency is not needed in Washington, money or no money; and the SBC does not have the money.

Fortunately, the Baptist Joint Committee survived two attempts last month to cut its income even further. When the budget subcommittee met in January, the figure of \$391,800 was established as the proposal for the Baptist Joint Committee. The proposal came to the floor of the Executive Committee meeting, however,

at \$50,000. An amendment was proposed by Frank Lady of Arkansas to restore the funding to the original figure. Before the vote was taken, Paul Pressler, committee member from Texas, offered a substitute motion that would have set the funding at \$241,000. A ballot vote was called for, and the substitute motion lost by a vote of 35 to 34. Then, also by ballot, the amendment prevailed by a vote of 39 to 30.

We have a good thing in the Baptist Joint Committee. At convention time in Las Vegas, it would be well to leave things as they are and vote not to establish a new Religious Liberty Commission. We are very well represented at the present time.

If we were to seek to establish a new agency, we would then begin to realize the effectiveness of what we already have. Let's not make that mistake.

Notice

Rep. Jim Simpson of Long Beach has introduced a bill (HCR 163) in the Mississippi House of Representatives that would suspend the rules of that body and allow the House to consider the issue of allowing gambling aboard cruise vessels. The bill is in the Rules Committee but could be on the floor of the House at any moment. A telephone call to legislative members would be in order. The cruise ship is already operating from Gulfport. The phone number is 359-3770 for both representatives and senators.

Guest opinion . . .

Gambling surfaces again

By Paul Jones

Just as the media and even most of the proponents had pronounced the issue of gambling dead for the year, the attempt to legalize a floating casino has been reintroduced.

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 163 has been introduced in an attempt to have the rules of the legislature suspended so that a bill to allow casino gambling aboard a vessel operating off Gulfport, Biloxi, or the other coast cities could be considered. The deadline for introduction of such bills passed in mid-February, and now the advocates of legalized gambling want the entire legislature to suspend its rules to accommodate their special interest legislation.

During the latter part of 1988, a large ocean-going vessel of over 500 feet in length docked at Gulfport and began to provide cruises out of

Gulfport into the international waters of the Gulf of Mexico. When the cruise vessel arrived on our coast, the owner/operators indicated that they were a cruise vessel and did not need to rely on gambling to be profited.

The owner/operators now say, however, that they must have the ability to operate the gambling casino while still in the waters of the Mississippi Sound if they are to make money. They also said that they would pack up and leave the state for Galveston, Texas, if the Legislature did not give them what they wanted. In other words, now they threaten the citizens of the state and the Legislature if they do not get the legalized gambling they earlier had said was unnecessary.

The Legislature could take up HCR 163 at any time. Quick action is needed

Baptist Beliefs...

God's sovereignty, man's free will

By Herschel H. Hobbs

that he can act as he wills in keeping with his benevolent nature and purpose without the advice or consent of anyone outside himself.

The Bible also teaches that man created in God's image and likeness is a person, not a puppet. In his free will he is endowed with the right of choice.

The question is — can these two self-evident truths be harmonized? How can God be sovereign, and at the same time how can man be free? It is held by many that they cannot be harmonized. However, God does not contradict himself.

For this reason for many years I said that in man's finite wisdom they do not harmonize. But in the infinite wisdom of God they do. However, in recent years I have concluded that they can be harmonized. Whether or

not it satisfies anyone else, it satisfies me.

In his sovereignty, God set the plan of salvation. According to his benevolent nature and purpose, and without the advice or consent of anyone outside himself, he said that all who are "in Christ" will be saved. This is seen in verse 5b. But he left man free to choose whether or not to be in Christ. Man's free will is seen in "after that ye believed" (v. 13).

God does not arbitrarily send any soul to hell. To the contrary, he has done all even he can do to save us. But he will not violate your free will or personhood. He loves you too much for that. Whether or not you spend eternity in heaven or hell is determined by your own free will.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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Clarke phonathon

Students at Clarke College who will participate in a phonathon for student recruitment, pictured, standing, left to right, are Sheila Bowden, Huntsville, Ala.; Connie Marshall, Grenada; Mrs. Evelyn Williams, director of admissions and financial aid; and Dana Spohr, Huntsville, Ala.; seated, Tammy Bounds, Philadelphia.

The purpose of this phonathon is contact with high school students in Mississippi and surrounding states to tell them what Clarke has to offer and to encourage them to visit the campus.

Clear-TV will call for boycott of certain television sponsors

WHEATON, Ill. (EP) — A coalition of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders will call for a boycott of the leading sponsors of sex, violence, profanity, and anti-Christian stereotyping on network TV. The coalition, Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLEAR-TV), will monitor television from April 27-May 24 and promote a one-year boycott of one or more of the leading sponsors of objectionable material following the monitoring period.

CLEAR-TV claims to be "one of the largest and most diverse groups of Christian leaders ever to participate in a single social concern." The group includes the heads of 70 denominations, presidents of 53 Christian colleges, more than 200 Christian broadcasters, heads of several large parachurch organizations, and other church leaders.

Billy Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals, serves as chairman of CLEAR-TV. He says the group will notify network advertisers of its intentions, and "will offer to work with any advertiser that wishes to avoid being selected for a boycott."

Melvin adds, "For three years CLEAR-TV officials have made numerous attempts to reduce the sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping by the networks. We have met with representatives of the networks, and a number of corporate executives, and have corresponded numerous times with all network advertisers. Our actions have mostly been ignored. We now feel it is time to take stronger action."

Gregory will chair group to find new WMU executive

By Karen Benson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Marjorie J. McCullough, national president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, has appointed Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., to chair the search committee seeking a successor to Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director.

Weatherford has announced she is retiring and will marry a Cincinnati, Ohio, pastor Aug. 19. She has held WMU's top post for 15 years.

The other search committee members are Roena Day, Arizona WMU president; Donna Brewer, Illinois WMU president; Ellen Teague, District of Columbia WMU president; and Dorothy Pryor, Georgia WMU executive director. McCullough will be an ex-officio member of the committee.

Gregory was Virginia WMU president and a member of the national

WMU executive board from 1971 to 1975. She was national WMU president from 1975 to 1981. She was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1981-82.

The WMU bylaws allow the search committee to be made up of current WMU board members, former board members, and a state WMU executive director. The national WMU executive board is composed of WMU presidents from states eligible for representation on SBC boards. A nationally elected president and recording secretary, and the national WMU executive director also serve on the board.

Suggestions and resumes may be sent to Christine Gregory at the national WMU headquarters: P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010.

Karen Benson writes for WMU, SBC.

The Second Front Page The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Praying thru the phone book

Christian witnesses will hit streets of Las Vegas

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Five evangelistic/missions ventures will accompany the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15, members of the SBC Executive Committee learned.

SBC Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis told committee members about the Las Vegas project during their winter meeting Feb. 20-22 in Nashville.

The five facets of the evangelistic/missions effort are prayer support, house-to-house witnessing, youth ministries, church starts and simultaneous revival meetings, Lewis said.

The prayer support involves praying for Las Vegas residents by name, he said. The city's phone book has been divided and sent to 6,089 Southern Baptists who have agreed to pray for the Las Vegas.

The house-to-house witnessing effort will be conducted Saturday, June 10, he said, noting that 1,160 people have volunteered to do the visitation.

The youth ministry will involve house-to-house visitation, street services, concerts and other events geared toward teens, he added. A team of 100 young people from across the convention is being formed to lead the effort, and 45 teens already have been enlisted, he said.

Nevada Baptists hope to start 25 new churches in conjunction with the convention project. Eleven churches already have been started, and project leaders are confident at least 20 will be launched by the time of the annual meeting, Lewis said.

In addition, simultaneous revivals are to be conducted across the state the week prior to the annual meeting, he added, noting 80 churches already have agreed to participate.

In other business, the Executive Committee:

Register elected

— Elected M. Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, Miss., to be a member of the 1988-89 SBC Committee on Nominations. Register fills a vacancy left by Davis R. Odom, formerly pastor in Brandon, Miss., who moved from the state and no longer is eligible to be on the committee.

— Learned that \$243,006.73 was expended in defending a lawsuit filed against the SBC and the Executive Committee by Robert and Julia Crowder, Henry C. Cooper, and H. Allen McCartney.

The suit was filed in December 1985. The plaintiffs, who lost the case, charged their rights were violated by the way then-SBC President Charles F. Stanley presided over the SBC annual meeting that summer.

— Heard that its bylaws workgroup is continuing to study the issue of

messenger representation to SBC annual meetings. The item will be on the Executive Committee's agenda for its Sept. 18-20 meeting.

— Agreed to recommend a change in SBC Bylaw 23, limiting the convention music director to two one-year terms and citing that a music director cannot then be re-elected until one year after a successor is named.

— Passed resolutions of appreciation for three retiring convention executives: Earl Kelly, executive

director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Cecil A. Ray, national director of Planned Growth in Giving, Georgetown, Texas; and Darwin E. Welch, executive director-treasurer, Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, Sandy, Utah.

— Authorized a "special allocation" of \$200,000 per year for five years, to Golden Gate Seminary, "for endowment in order to help meet the special need of faculty-staff housing."

Morrow, Dent join MBCB staff in CT, at Garaywa

David Morrow and Bob Dent have joined the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Morrow

Dent

Morrow will work in the Church Training Department as preschool and children's consultant. Dent will

work at the Woman's Missionary Union Department at Camp Garaywa as maintenance director.

Morrow replaces Shirley Oglesby who is going as a missionary to Jordan. Dent replaces Harry Douglas who is retiring.

Dent, 34, is a native of Holly Springs. He attended Ole Miss and Union University and earned a master's degree from Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He comes to the convention board from First Church, Holly Springs, where he has been interim minister of youth and activities. Prior to that he and his wife, Kathy, were special project volunteers with the Foreign Mission Board in the Philippines.

(Continued on page 7)

Baptist Men's group will hear MBC President Futral

The president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be the featured speaker during the plenary session of the Baptist Men's Conference, Apr. 1, at Parkway Church, Jackson.

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will deliver the missions message following lunch at the church.

Futral

Music leaders for the plenary session will be Bob and Jan Salley. Bob is director of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

The program begins at 10 a.m., following registration at 9:30, with fellowship meetings. Five fellowship groups will have their special interest sessions. They are Agricultural Missions, Church Renewal, Construction,

Educational Missions, and Hams. In addition, there will be a High School/Collegiate Young Men's Rally.

(Continued on page 7)



Bob and Jan Salley

FMB approves new category, gets thanks from senior staff

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Trustees and top-level executives of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are in one accord, trustee chairman C. Mark Corts said during the trustees' Feb. 13-15 meeting in Richmond, Va.

Trustees received a statement of affirmation from 10 elected staff administrators expressing gratitude that trustee decisions "have been governed by a missions agenda" in the midst of the theological-political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The executives were responding to a similar vote of confidence trustees gave Southern Baptist missionaries and Foreign Mission Board staff members in December.

In other business, the trustees approved a new mission personnel category — International Service Corps — placing the former Journeyman, Mission Service Corps and special assignment programs under one umbrella.

Trustees also appointed 20 new missionaries and reappointed one veteran worker, raising the number of Foreign Mission Board personnel to 3,854 in 114 countries. They also heard a report on the recent gathering of 300 world mission leaders in Singapore, accompanied by assurances that participation in such meetings need not blur Southern Baptist distinctives.

The exchange of affirmations evolved from comments Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks made to trustees last October. Parks said at the time that the controversy had spawned misperceptions and rumors, causing Southern Baptists to mistrust missionaries, board staff and trustees.

Trustee chairman Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., urged trustees to underscore the mutual affirmations in their home states and throughout Southern Baptist life.

"We need to respond to denominational disaffection" and such trends as "negative designated giving," Corts said.

In North Carolina alone, Corts explained after the meeting, he has heard of 15 or more churches that have decided against full participation in the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan for funding missions and other denominational programs. These churches have decided to pick which Southern Baptist agencies they will support, Corts said.

"In the long run, (negative designated giving) is going to harm our whole convention," Corts told trustees.

Trustees need to be "more active in broadcasting some good news about Baptists and some good news about foreign missions" to fellow Baptists, Corts said. "Tell them the Foreign Mission Board is not going to pot. We are not spending all of our time up here fighting with the staff."

"The mission enterprise of Southern Baptists is going forward," he added. "In my nine years on this board, I cannot remember a time when there was greater unanimity of purpose."

Parks and nine board vice presidents commended the trustees for actions that "maintain Southern Baptist basic foreign missions philosophy and reinforce our commitment to Bold Mission Thrust," the 25-year emphasis on sharing the

gospel with all unevangelized people by the year 2000.

The administrators also expressed gratitude for "the strong Cooperative Program support" of the trustees' churches.

A survey by L.H. McCollough of fellow trustees reports that their churches devote an average of 12.3 percent of their budgets to the Cooperative Program, compared to the 8.5 percent average for all Southern Baptist churches. McCollough is pastor of First Baptist Church in Bastrop, La.

McCollough's survey includes all but five of the board's 87 trustees. Sixty-four of their churches devote 10 percent or more of their budgets to the Cooperative Program, he said. The range among the churches is 1.4 to 25 percent.

A report on the Global Consultation on World Evangelization by AD 2000 and Beyond, held Jan. 5-8 in Singapore, was presented to trustees by Parks and Bill O'Brien, the board's executive vice president. Some 300 mission leaders from 50 countries, half of them in the Third World, unanimously adopted a "Great Commission Manifesto" during the consultation pledging cooperative efforts in sharing the gospel with all unevangelized peoples by the year 2000.

"Never in recorded church history," O'Brien said, "have so many believers from the entire world been so aware of the church's responsibility to evangelize the whole world."

By the end of 1991, similar consultations may be held in 100 or more countries to formulate local evangelization plans, he said.

Parks stressed cooperative ventures with other Christians, such as the Singapore meeting, are not intended to submerge Southern Baptists' independence or their distinct approach to missions.

"Are we moving towards some kind of organizational identity? The answer is no," he said. "Are we mov-

ing toward blurring our own distinctives? The answer is no. Are we going to fund them or are they to fund us? No."

Parks said he believes Christianity's various segments have "spiritual giftedness" just as individuals have. "God has gifted different ones of us to emphasize certain truths of the Scripture and others of us to emphasize other truths — equal truth, but different emphasis. It takes all of us, with our own particular personality and understanding . . . to get closer to understanding who God really is."

The new International Service Corps will enhance the board's ability to respond "more strategically and quickly" to short-term personnel needs overseas, said Tim Brendle, associate vice president for mission personnel.

Six screening conferences each year will be utilized in creating an International Service Corps "human resource pool" of Baptists prepared to work overseas from four months to two years, with possible extensions of up to one year. International Service Corps personnel will be asked to raise as much of their own support as possible, but the Foreign Mission Board will provide partial or full stipends as necessary, Brendle said.

Persons selected for International Service Corps will undergo orientation at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., to prepare them for working in a new culture.

Unlike the board's requirements for career missionaries, International Service Corps guidelines contain provisions under which divorced persons can apply. They will have to provide all of their own support funds, however.

The provision for divorced applicants reflects no change in previous policy for short-term personnel, board officials said.

Art Toalston writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Harry Douglas retires after 30 years at Garaywa

Harry Douglas will retire on March 31, after 30 years as maintenance director at Camp Garaywa. Camp Garaywa, near Clinton, is owned and operated by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

Douglas' service with Garaywa began in 1958 on a part-time basis when he was a student at Mississippi College. He was employed full-time in 1963.

During his tenure, Douglas has been a fix-it man who helped to bring about many improvements in both grounds and buildings at Garaywa. He has used his varied skills as painter, electrician, carpenter, plumber, as well as being a good-will ambassador for Garaywa.

Baptist students plan Gulfshore training event

Featured speakers for the annual leader training event for Mississippi Baptist Student union will be Chester Swor, Jeff Powell, and Nathan Porter.

The BSU Leadership Training Conference will take place March 31-April 2 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.

At that meeting, new officers for the 27 campus

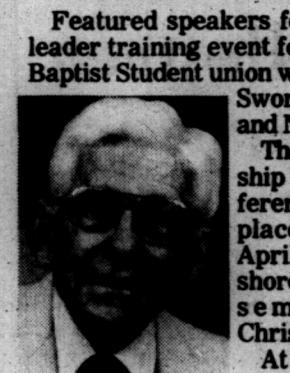
BSU groups in the state will receive training for their posts and student summer missionaries will be commissioned. And new state officers will be elected.

Chester Swor, director of his own speaking organization called Christian Life Crusade, will offer the keynote

He has built two cabins and two pavilions, installed new ceiling and light fixtures in the auditorium, rewired all the cabins and put in an electric heating system. He replaced the cabins' old shutters with new windows. All the cabins are now air-conditioned. He oversaw the construction of the activities building in 1984-85. He built covered walkways connecting many of the buildings, and a bridge from the cabin area to the activities building.

Garaywa served 7,350 guests last year, including 2,400 GAs and Acteens in a ten-week summer camping program.

Douglas and his wife Frances have five children and ten grandchildren. Upon retirement, they will move to the home they built at Eagle Lake, near Vicksburg. Harry hopes to have more time for hunting and fishing, two of his favorite hobbies.



Douglas



Swor Powell

message on Friday evening. The next morning he will lead an orientation session for all new officers. And then on Sunday morning, Swor will preach the closing message.

Nathan Porter is national consultant for domestic hunger and migrant ministries for the Home Mission Board. He will present the missions challenge Saturday evening to the newly commissioned summer missionaries.

(Continued on page 9)

Executive Committee Resolution

Bill Moyers, TV series criticized

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — A three-part public television series, produced by Bill Moyers and shown on the Public Broadcasting Service, was criticized in a resolution adopted during the Feb. 20-22 meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Committee member Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and one of the architects of the conservative movement in the SBC, introduced a resolution that expressed "concern about the biased content of the Bill Moyers special series, 'God and Politics,' and the 'use of federal tax dollars to support one faction in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy through the use of the Public Broadcasting System.' (sic)"

Pressler's resolution said:

"That the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention expresses concern about the biased content of the Bill Moyers special series, 'God and Politics,' and directs its officers and encourages individuals to express their personal concerns about it to its sponsors and to Public Broadcasting System concerning the timing

of the showing of 'Battle for the Bible' and the use of federal tax dollars to support one faction in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy through the use of the Public Broadcasting System."

Pressler's substitute was adopted

40-14. Moyers, a former Southern Baptist,

produced the three-part series on

conservative religion and secular

politics in the spring of 1988. One segment, "The Battle for the Bible," focused on the decade-long controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The segment on Southern Baptists

was shown in North Carolina just

prior to the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC in San Antonio, and on a local San Antonio public broadcasting station on the Saturday night prior to the annual meeting.

Pressler, who was interviewed in the special, charged the presentation was prejudiced and that Moyers had manipulated questions in the presentation.

After presenting his substitute resolution, Pressler said:

"Let me give you an illustration of how bad the program was. Bill Moyers came to interview me with one camera. And all the shots that were taken of his asking questions were taken full face of me and over his shoulder. After I left, his staff remained and recorded him asking new questions front face of him. So, as you watch the program, all the photographs that showed him asking questions front full face were ones that were taken after I had gone."

"There were new questions which were then inserted before my answers. Now, they were somewhat

similar questions, but there are certain nuances in questions and there are nuances in the manner of which you answer questions, so that you are directly responsive to the questions that are asked."

"And, brother, it is not fair, to have a television program that then changes the questions that are asked of the person and you appear like you are answering questions that were never asked."

He charged the commentary is prejudiced and cited quotations from a brochure produced by a group calling itself "Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention," and mailed to 34,000 pastors in advance of the 1988 annual meeting.

"This brochure has 13 pages of quotations. On five of these 13 pages, there are quotations from the Bill Moyers program," Pressler said. He read one quote from W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and a former president of the SBC, claiming its phrasing showed

(Continued on page 5)

Bill Moyers, TV series criticized by Ex. Com.

(Continued from page 4)
prejudice against Criswell and conservatives.

Pressler read the quote: "This is Bill Moyers: 'Early in his ministry, Criswell published a list of professors he said were interpreting the Bible in the light of new historical research and turning his Southern Baptist schools into infidel institutions. He called for their expulsion. Then, 10 years ago, Criswell's ideas about the Bible became the platform for organized political campaigns to take over the denomination and purify it.'"

"Now, ladies and gentlemen," Pressler told the Executive Committee, "if you cannot see prejudice in that commentary . . . I don't think you understand journalism."

He continued his criticism by noting the Moyers show had been "touted twice in Baptist Press (the denomination's news service)."

"I certainly think that this is something that the Baptist Joint Committee should be concerned about because it is the interference of federal tax dollars intruding into an intra-denominational controversy."

"We have not done anything about it. And I think our failure to do something about it condones it."

Pressler also warned committee members that "if we do not express ourselves on this, we are inviting . . . a repeat of what happened last year to be made prior to the Las Vegas convention, the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, June 13-15, in Las Vegas, Nev."

During discussion on Pressler's substitute resolution, one Executive Committee member spoke against the action.

Terry Davis, pastor of Ocean City Church, Ocean City, Md., said: "It used to be you could just be Southern Baptist. I have tried very hard not to become part of any coalition — conservative, moderate, liberal."

Davis added: "They told me when I came on (the Executive Committee) that I would have to take sides, but I don't want to take sides. I don't want to have to make this kind of decision. I can live with the first (original) recommendation; I can't live with the second (Pressler's)."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

Bill Moyers challenges critics to face him

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Bill Moyers, producer of a public television series on religion and secular politics, has challenged a recommendation adopted Feb. 22 by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

In a response to Baptist Press, Moyers said, "Paul Pressler is not telling the truth."

He recounted the interview with Pressler and said: "As I began to ask him questions about his ties to right-wing politics and the beer man Joseph Coors, he grew angry and flushed in the face, abruptly stood up, tore off his microphone, announced the interview was over, and left the room in a huff, all of which we filmed but did not use in the commentary."

"His unexpected departure meant that he was not present when, as is customary, we reversed the single camera and repeated the questions which my producer had taken down as the interview progressed. But the content of the questions was unchanged."

"For one thing, as a matter of professional practice, I do not treat my guests unfairly; one would not survive in journalism and do so. For another thing, we understood at the time that Mr. Pressler was recording the interview and would have his own transcript; I may have fallen from grace in his sight, but I have not taken leave of my senses."

Moyers told Baptist Press he sent a telegram Feb. 24, to Pressler, with a copy to Executive Committee Chairman Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Lenoir City, Tenn.

The telegram to Pressler reads: "In light of your spurious accusations to the Executive Committee, we intend to repeat 'The Battle for the Bible,' on Sunday, May 21, so viewers can once more judge it for themselves."

"In the meantime, I respectfully request that you arrange for both of us to appear before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in June in Las Vegas to compare notes, take questions, and

discuss these matters in a Christian manner."

He added he had produced the series for the Public Broadcasting Service through his independent production company, Public Affairs Television Inc. and that major funding had come from Chevron Corp.

"We did get some grants from different places and got some funding from the challenge fund of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. There is a system set up so that any CPB (which is funded by the federal government) funds cannot be used by anyone to affect editorial content," Moyers said.

The production of the three-part series took "six to eight months," Moyers said. "We tried to be scrupulously fair and with the single exception of Paul Pressler, the comments we received from all sides have underlined that fairness."

On other matters, Barry Chase, vice president of news and public affairs programming for PBS in Arlington, Va., explained the timing of the series, the use of federal dollars, and charges that PBS interfered in internal affairs of the SBC.

Chase said the timing of the series "was done without any knowledge of the convention meeting. I am unaware that anyone in our department would have known how these broadcasts would dovetail with the SBC."

Decisions to air the program in May in North Carolina and on the Saturday just before the 1988 annual meeting by a San Antonio, Texas, station "were local decisions," Chase added.

Stu Kantor, a spokesman for PBS, said PBS "is a private, non-profit membership corporation which has three main sources of funding: member contributions, which make up about 85 percent of the budget; some self supporting services; which account for 10 to 12 percent; and CPB funds, which average 2 or 3 percent a year."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

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Pier-to-pier evangelism

C. L. Hanshew, now retired as director of missions for South Carolina's Savannah River Baptist Association, maintains a waterfront ministry that allows him to build relationships and present the gospel with residents of Daufuskie Island, which can only be reached by a 45-minute boat trip. Through Han-

shew's ministry, the 100 residents of Daufuskie Island now have regular church services in an antebellum church building erected by slaves before the Civil War. (HMB photo by Michael Largent)

BJCPA survives attacks

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs survived four attacks on its budget during the Feb. 20-22 meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville.

The Baptist Joint Committee is a Washington-based coalition of nine Baptist conventions. It focuses on the twin First Amendment issues of religious liberty and church-state relations.

The BJC has been criticized by Southern Baptist Convention conservatives for being too liberal, especially in its positions on school prayer and abortion. They also have said the BJC has failed to be accountable to the SBC, which provides most of the committee's funds.

BJC staff and supporters have countered that the organization has represented Baptists' historic stand on separation of church and state and thus was correct in not endorsing the school prayer amendment. They have said that the BJC's program assignment prohibits it from being involved in the abortion debate, which is not a religious liberty matter. And they have said the BJC is accountable to its full 54-member board, on which the SBC has 18 seats.

During the past three years, the SBC Executive Committee has created three special committees to study the convention's relationship to and/or funding of the BJC.

The most recent committee reported to the Executive Committee at its February meeting. The committee suggested that the SBC create a new Religious Liberty Commission, which will represent the SBC in Washington and through which the SBC will fund and relate to the BJC. The Executive Committee approved that proposal and will present it to messengers to the SBC annual meeting this summer. Creation requires approval by messengers to two successive SBC annual meetings.

In the meantime, the SBC must decide how much support it will give to the BJC.

At its Jan. 18-20 meeting, the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee voted to recommend that the BJC take the same 2.05 percent budget cut to be incurred by most SBC entities. That would drop its

going in the basic right direction," said Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark.

"The effect of the (subcommittee's) change will absolutely destroy the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee," he said, noting he understood complaints against the BJC but urging fellow committee members to "recognize all the good things the Baptist Joint Committee has done."

David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., warned that a reduction in the BJC budget could hurt the Religious Liberty Commission proposal, "if people perceive this committee is more interested in punishing the Baptist Joint Committee than creating the Religious Liberty Commission."

The SBC needs a "referendum on how to do religious liberty work," with a clear choice between the Religious Liberty Commission and the BJC, he said.

Paul Pressler, a Houston judge, echoed Jackson. "I support the Cooperative Program fully and don't want anything that is going to break the Cooperative Program," he said, noting state convention and church designations to the BJC imperil the cooperative spirit of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget. A failure to restrict the BJC's allocation would mean the convention is "rewarding these efforts to break the Cooperative Program," he said.

Pressler offered an amendment that would give \$71,704 to the PAC, \$241,000 to the BJC and \$1,000,304 to the CLC. He described his proposal as a compromise that would give the PAC money to operate, help the CLC with its Washington office, and prevent the BJC "from profiting for breaking the Cooperative Program."

Pressler's motion failed on a secret-ballot vote, 34-35. Lady's motion passed by secret ballot, 39-30.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

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Letters to the editor

In September Mississippian Curtis Caine spoke his convictions before the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a member of that commission. The statements were made almost six months ago.

Since then there have been many letters.

With this issue it would seem that enough time has elapsed to have fully considered the subject, and we will discontinue use of letter referring to it. — Editor

Support for Dr. Caine

Editor:

I, too, as Mr. Robert N. Grantham, offer my support for Dr. Caine. It is astonishing that Congress blocked the investigation of King's activities by the FBI for 30 years. I wonder why they put off bringing the facts of Martin "Luther" King's life before the public.

M. B. Eskridge
Brooksville

Curtis Caine's statement

Editor:

I would like to praise and commend Mr. Robert N. Grantham for his letter in the *Baptist Record* (2/9/89) in defending Dr. Caine. I stand with Dr. Caine 100 percent; and if our ministers of the gospel, along with other so-called spiritual leaders, do not come to the rescue of what Southern Baptists hold dear, then the denomination ought to be left in the hands of Richard Land and sink.

I'm writing Richard Land also. He needs to be relieved of his position and not be on the denomination's payroll.

Martin Luther King was a thoroughbred Communist according to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Who is he to tell Baptists what to do? We do not believe in and will not adhere to dictators.

Land must be relieved of his liberal duties and dismissed.

Mrs. John S. Carr
Grenwood

We are printing this letter in order to try to straighten out what seem to be some serious misconceptions concerning the Curtis Caine issue.

The same "conservative" forces that put Dr. Caine on the board of the Christian Life Commission put Richard Land into the position of executive director of the commission. Richard Land is anything but a liberal.

Curtis Caine had a right to make his statements, but others have just as much right to disagree, as did the Mississippi Baptist Convention by an overwhelming vote.

It is likely that Dr. Caine was involved in the effort to remove Larry Baker as the executive director of the Christian Life Commission and to put Richard Land into that position. But Land is not responsible for Caine's statements, as he has pointed out. He has not, however, made a big to do over the statements' nor has he called for Caine's removal.

No doubt, Martin Luther King had feet of clay, as do most folks. Maybe his were more clay than the ordinary. Who knows? Maybe he was a Communist. J. Edgar Hoover thought he was. Hoover's appraisal, however, didn't make him one. Either he was a Communist or not a Communist regardless of Hoover's beliefs. And it is true that the anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa seem to be beginning to crack. The issue, really, is more complicated than most of us know how or are equipped to deal with properly. There is no more reason to remove Land from his position, however, than there is to remove some of the agency people who are elected by a "moderate" vote. There may be some that both sides would rather had not been elected; but once they have been elected, they need to be left free to do their jobs. — Editor

Not a bigot

Editor:

The attached copy of an article in the *Baptist Record*, Thursday, Feb. 9, issue is of much concern to me and I'm sure to other Mississippi Baptists, especially the paragraph which I have circled.

I grew up in this state. I joined the Baptist church in Mendenhall, Mississippi, in 1922 as a lad of 11 and am now a member of First Baptist in our great little town of Columbus, Mississippi, and in all of my 76 years, I've never been referred to as a "bigot."

So may I suggest to Mr. Richard Land that he set up and arrange a con-

ference commemorating the Baptist people in Mississippi who are not "bigots" in the same manner as he did on the birthday of Martin Luther King in Nashville on January 16 and 17.

B. G. Dishongh Sr.
Columbus

The paragraph circled reads, "— We call upon Southern Baptists to repent of past bigotry and to pray for, and minister to, those still within its deadly clutches, either as persecuted or persecutor."

It would seem that those who are not bigots and have not been would have nothing to repent of, as far as that issue is concerned. — Editor

King not a Communist

Editor:

I have read with interest the letters to the editor defending Dr. Curtis Caine's label of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a "fraud" and a Communist. By "fraud," I assume Caine means that King was not a genuine Christian minister. This is probably due to Caine's other claim, that King was a Communist.

King was highly educated and well read, having earned a Ph.D. in 1955 from Crozer (Baptist) Theological Seminary. He read the works of Henry David Thoreau, Walter Rauschenbusch, and Mahatma Gandhi, which influenced his views on social change and nonviolence resistance. He also studied Karl Marx.

King agreed with Marx that capitalism can lead to huge gaps between the wealthy and the poor, and King agreed that there was a need for more fair distribution of wealth. However, King rejected Marx's atheism, political totalitarianism, and materialistic view of history. Said King: "Nineteenth-century capitalism failed to see that life is social, and Marxism failed and still fails to see that life is individual and personal. The Kingdom of God is . . . a synthesis which reconciles the truths of both."

Whereas Martin Luther King had more areas of agreement with Communism than the average Southern Baptist, he was not a Communist in the classical sense. He did not buy into Marx's atheism and political totalitarian control, and he was not a member of the Communist party. James E. Tull has a good discussion

of King on pp. 209-235 of his book, *Sharpers of Baptist Thought*.

Bob Rogers, pastor
Calvary Church, Gloster

Worship thoughts

Editor:

For the past several weeks there has been a great deal of attention given to race-relations. It is rather obvious that this has aroused much interest (to put it mildly), and the expression of opinion. It appears that some necessary insights and questions have been expressed from both sides of this rather delicate issue. But to be quite honest, discussing this issue is not my purpose. I am, however, afraid that it has overshadowed a far more important subject which has also received some emphasis lately in our Baptist paper.

During these same last few weeks, Dennis McIntire, (a man I do not know personally), has written some of the most enlightening and timely devotional thoughts on WORSHIP that the Baptist Record has ever or possibly ever will carry. Worship seems to be carrying a "back seat" while all the "other" issues (missions, personal witnessing, race-relations, etc.), that should GROW OUT OF WORSHIP have taken a "front seat".

I very possibly could be making a far too simplistic statement, but . . . it surely seems that many of the issues that entangle us as God's children (in the Southern Baptist corner) would be far less prevalent IF there was more understanding and practicing of worship.

Most would be well aware that seemingly "anything goes" in worship today. I am a minister of music and therefore readily acknowledge that this is especially so in the area of music. Many would say, and perhaps rightfully so, that this is necessary "to reach others." I may be wrong, but I don't believe our purpose in worship is to reach others . . . rather, to reach God. Only then does it seem that we are strengthened and fit to reach others and to do the other areas of work that our heavenly Father has called us to do. Besides, to make an effort to make a worship service appealing to "everybody" is to presume that everybody desires to worship. If the OBJECT of our worship is God Himself, then it doesn't seem too likely that "everybody" would really want to worship unless that worship was . . . "entertaining."

A. W. Tozer is quite possibly still

right . . . "worship is the missing jewel of the evangelical church."

Perhaps we shall never know exactly what worship is, but we might need to struggle a little more with what it is not.

Anyway, thanks Mr. McIntire for being used of God to be a most refreshing stream. And thank you Mr. McGregor for carrying his devotionals in the Record.

David Watson
Columbus

Emmanuel, Jackson, disbands

Editor:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that Emmanuel Baptist Church, 4404 Sagamore Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39209 has officially disbanded its membership, disposed of the assets, and donated the building to the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association with the hope that the message of Jesus Christ could be carried on in this neighborhood.

The membership had been declining steadily in recent years, and this decision was made after many sleepless nights and much prayerful consideration.

Any future reference to church letters or any other official business should be handled through the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, P. O. Box 4686, Jackson, Mississippi 39216.

Please pray for God's divine guidance as we seek a new church home and a new church family.

Mrs. Maxcine Brunson
Secretary

Anniversary in Mannheim

Editor:

The Fellowship Baptist Church, Mannheim, West Germany, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on June 4, 1989. Any former pastor, member, and friend is cordially invited to send greetings and any helpful information concerning the church. Correspondence should be addressed to Rev. Warner Bumgardner, Mannheim Middle School, APO New York 09086.

Warner Bumgardner
Mannheim, West Germany

Stamps: Honduras needs dental, surgical teams

By Stanley D. Stamps

Urgent requests for eight volunteer dental teams and four volunteer surgical teams have been submitted to the Foreign Mission Board by the Honduran Mission to work in the remote western mountains bordering El Salvador. These projects will be coordinated by Leslie and Brenda Shaw, volunteer Southern Baptists from First Baptist Church, Hilliard, Florida, who operate a mission-owned medical center in the town of Gualcinco, Lempira Department (state). Shaw is a registered nurse and works closely with the regional medical authorities and the Baptist churches in the area.

During school months, Shaw has permission to enter the small rural schools of seven municipalities (similar to counties) for preventive and corrective dental care of the students. During a normal school

year, which runs from mid-February to mid-November, he is able to attend about 5,000 students. Last year he was able to help only 2,000 due to an unusually heavy rainfall that washed out mountain roads, and delays in the delivery of some of the necessary supplies by the regional health agencies. A total of 104 surgical patients were cared for in a small semi-out-patient clinic set up adjacent to the health center in Gualcinco.

In addition to basic dental care or medical attention the patients all receive a New Testament along with a Christian witness. Shaw reports evangelistic decisions in a number of communities where no Baptist work exists as well as decisions in three villages where Baptist congregations do exist. He also has a continuous program of health, hygiene, and nutrition classes in the schools in order to encourage the pupils for better health.

Shaw likes to spend three weeks visiting the schools in the surrounding area conducting oral hygiene clinics and pulling teeth which are too far gone. In the mean time, he likes to schedule a volunteer dental team for the fourth week to come and do fillings and other corrective treatments that are beyond his capacity. For that reason he has requested eight teams to cover the school months in order to adequately cover the area. During 1988 not all teams requested materialized. Ideally, a team should consist of from two to six persons; a dentist and his helper, or not more than three dentists and their respective helpers.

Surgical teams are requested for the months that coincide with school vacations from late November to early February. These teams carry out a variety of minor surgical procedures on patients who are unable to

travel to medical facilities located in the major cities due to distance and difficulties of travel. Due to the generosity of medical personnel who have cooperated with the Gualcinco Clinic effort, Shaw has been able to upgrade the services and equipment available for thousands of people who live in the rugged mountains of western Honduras overlooking El Salvador to the west and south. Yet due to the lack of response of qualified medical and dental personnel, numerous needs have not been met in recent months. Shaw sees this as an on going need, and a similar number of requests will be submitted for next year, no doubt.

Persons interested may contact the medical section of volunteers overseas office of the Foreign Mission Board.

Stanley D. Stamps is a Southern Baptist missionary to Honduras. He is a native of Prentiss, Miss.

Books by wire

NASHVILLE — Baptist Book Store customers throughout the United States may now order Bibles and hardback books by telephone to send as gifts within the continental United States.

According to William S. Graham, director of the 62-store national chain, the Books by Wire service "will permit customers to conveniently purchase books as gifts from the nearest Baptist Book Store for distant and timely delivery just as flowers can be sent to other cities."

Handwritten, personal messages from the sender can accompany the gift-wrapped book on orders placed in advance of the desired delivery date, Graham said. Most orders can be delivered in two to five days, with next-day delivery available for an additional charge. Credit card purchases will be accepted for telephone orders, and on all Books by Wire orders, \$5.00 is charged for the service.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Back to Mexico

There's a sequel to the story I told last week about Jim Webb and the Mexican baby, Heidy Lara.

On February 21, a week after the baby had an operation at Baptist Hospital to repair her harelip, her father, Mario Portes, called the Webbs from San Fernando, Mexico. He was home caring for his other five children, and said that the three-year-old was extremely ill. He wanted his wife, Alejandrina, to hurry home as soon as she could.

Jim decided that he would take his wife, Margaret, and two daughters, Leslie and Carley, this trip, when he took the mother and baby back to their home at Punta Piedra.

Members of Jim and Margaret's Sunday School classes at First Baptist Church, Jackson, helped them to get away, earlier than planned, to Mexico. They ran errands for them and answered phone calls, and did other time-saving things for them. They brought gifts of money and clothes for the Portes family.

The Webbs took with them a small boat, motor, and boat trailer for Mario, a gift from Bobby Arnold, member of First Church.

Also they took an ice chest, to hold the fish that Mario catches. They took a hammer and other tools. They took a propane tank, with a burner, so that Alejandrina can cook with propane instead of on an outdoor wood-burning fire. (She told them that \$6 worth of the propane gas would last at least two months.)

Since Alejandrina said she had no soap of any kind, they took cans of concentrated laundry detergent. (The family's only source of water is to buy it from a truck that drives down the

beach selling it. And then they boil the water.)

Mario and the other children were happy to see Heidy Lara, and surprised to see how well she looked. Jim drove the three-year-old to a hospital but the child was already feeling better by the time of their arrival. At first, the children did not notice that their mother had a new front tooth, compliments of Dr. Charles Caskey of Jackson.

With his new hammer, Mario immediately built a chair from pieces of driftwood. And he tried out his new boat, driving it slowly and lovingly, a broad smile on his face. "I'll take good care of it!" he said.

Until now, he had been fishing for another man, and has had to give that man 3/4 of his catch, while he kept only a fourth for himself, to sell. Now, with his own boat, he can sell his whole catch. Also, with his own boat, he can join the fishing cooperative. Only he and one other in the area did not belong to it.

Jim left him a small amount of money, to save for boat repairs when needed. "We did not want just to give gifts that would soon be gone," Jim said, "but we wanted to give the family a chance to make a beginning. With the boat and tools, we planted a seed, so that Mario can improve his family's lifestyle. Before, without money, house, or boat, he had no way even to make a beginning. He could not even make a downpayment on a boat. Now, with the small boat for security for a loan, I told him that when he becomes more prosperous, he may be able to buy a bigger boat."

The Webbs returned to Jackson on Feb. 26. When Heidy Lara is bigger and stronger, they plan to bring her to Jackson again for a second operation.



A Portes daughter washes dishes.



Mario, with his new hammer, makes a chair of driftwood. The family's new propane tank is shown in background.



Mario drives his new boat.



The Portes family and the Webb family meet.

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BYW to hear Weatherford

One of the featured speakers at the annual BYW banquet this year will be Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC. Miss Weatherford has recently announced her early retirement and upcoming marriage to a Baptist pastor in Ohio.

Also speaking to the young women will be Gloria Thurman, missionary to Bangladesh. "Mrs. Thurman is an excellent speaker who is well loved among Mississippi Baptists," said

Monica Keathley, consultant, state WMU.

The BYW banquet is held each year in conjunction with the Mississippi WMU annual meeting. The banquet will be at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, on March 20, at 5:30 p.m.

BYWs wishing to attend the banquet may make reservations by calling the Mississippi WMU office at 968-3800. Cost for the banquet is \$4.50. Deadline for reservations is March 15.

Morrow, Dent join MBCB

(Continued from page 3) where he was camp manager of Luzon Baptist Campground and assistant business manager of the Philippines Baptist Mission.

Also, Dent served as a missionary journeyman in Liberia for two years where he was a Bible teacher.

Kathy Dent will serve as part time dietitian for Camp Garaywa. The couple have a two-year-old daughter, Kasey Kay.

Morrow, 36, is an Oklahoma native who comes to the convention board from the staff of First Baptist Church, Brandon, where he was minister of education and administration.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Prior to working at Brandon, Morrow was minister of education and ad-

ministration at Bowmar Ave. Baptist Church, Vicksburg, 1979-83; and was minister of education and youth at Brookwood Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 1978-79. In school, he worked for United Parcel Service and sold shoes.

Morrow and his wife Amy Lynn, have three children.

Baptist Men's group . . .

(Continued from page 3) ly, a Volunteers in Missions Conference, and a Witnessing Ministry Conference.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., for which tickets must be purchased in advance from the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. And the missions session begins at 12:15.

Catholic charities will host homecoming

Catholic Charities is hosting a homecoming on April 1 to help celebrate its 25th anniversary, according to Elvin Sunds, executive director.

All former and current staff, clients, adoptees, adoptive parents, foster parents, foster children, supporters, and friends are invited, said Sunds.

"Although sponsored by the Catholic Church, many of the staff and many

of the people we have served over the years are Baptist," Sunds noted.

"We will send invitations to as many people as we have addresses for," he said, "but we want those who don't receive an invitation to know they are invited, too."

Homecoming festivities will be held on the grounds of St. Joseph High School in Jackson beginning at 10 a.m.

Devotional

Three steps to happiness

By Greg Potts
Romans 12:3-8

Recently a popular song was entitled, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." No doubt, one of the reasons for its popularity was that so many people wanted to escape the worries and pressure of this world and find happiness. Everyone wants to be happy, but not everyone has mastered the art.

In our text, Paul was comparing the church to the human body. I believe there is another application in the text. There are three steps to happiness found here.

I. Know yourself (v. 3). The New American Standard reads, "I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think." I like that! In other words, don't think you are more important than anyone else! Realize where you fit in the big picture and accept your role. This involves understanding our limitations.

Some like to think they are smarter than they really are, or possibly more important than they really are. Paul is saying we should not strain ourselves trying to be something we are not. Understand your limitations. The flip side of that is we should understand our expectations. God did not save you to sit, sour, and smell, but to serve!

II. Accept yourself (vv. 4, 5). Paul said, "All the members do not have the same function." Not everyone is alike. We are different. I pastor a church in "deer-hunting country." I mean, deer walk up into the back yard! Yet, I simply do not like to hunt. I have had to accept myself as I am. A second key to happiness is accepting yourself as you are.

III. Involve yourself (v. 6). Paul begins a list of spiritual gifts here and says, "Let each exercise them accordingly." This list is not exhaustive, but it demonstrates that each one of us has a spiritual gift and needs to use it in our Lord's service. Many Christians are not involved. A key to happiness as a Christian is to get involved in the Lord's service in his or her local church.

Charles Swindoll has said that there are "three important principles for happiness: Know who you are. Like who you are. Be who you are."



Potts

Potts is pastor, Providence Church, near Meadville.

Directors of missions to examine 'frontier'

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Association directors of missions from across the Southern Baptist Convention will examine the "frontiers" of their ministry when they gather for their annual meeting here June 11-12.

"The Association on the Frontier" will be the theme for the 28th annual meeting of the SBC Directors of Missions Conference, to be held in the Riviera Hotel immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Associations are local or regional organizations of Southern Baptist churches. The convention has 1,209 associations, whose work is coordinated by 961 directors of missions.

"The fact we're meeting in Las Vegas suggested our theme — a city in the West, in one of Southern Baptists' new-work areas," said conference President Mack Smoke of Baytown, Texas, director of missions for San Jacinto Baptist Association.

"We're also thinking about defining the term," Smoke added. "What does

'frontier' mean? The front line; the area where you blaze new trails. For us, it's also the place where you find Baptists working together beyond the local church but still confronting the local church."

The conference program will include a discussion of Southern Baptist ministry in Las Vegas. Missions directors also will study ministry in sparsely populated areas, work with ethnics, ministry in the future, use of volunteers, fellowship among local churches and overseas ministry.

Speakers will include missions directors from Virginia to Hawaii; from Miami to Portland, Ore.; from inner cities to rural Montana, Smoke said, noting the discussions will involve the variety of challenges faced by associations.

"Our objective involves two or three elements," he said. "We want to help missions directors understand the key role the association plays out in the Christian faith and in Baptist life."

The Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Mississippi invites members, prospects and guests to join in a time of fellowship at their dinner March 20, 5:30 p.m., at Colonial Hills Baptist Church, Southaven.

This will mark the third year that BNF has hosted a dinner prior to the evening session of the state WMU annual meeting.

Speaker for the dinner will be missionary Sharon Johnston who will present medical needs from north Brazil. Special guest will be Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC.

Cost for the dinner is \$4.50 per person. To take reservations, contact Ashley McCaleb, WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Johnston

Steven Clayton Littlejohn has been called as pastor to Blackwater Church, Kemper County. He previously served as pastor of Hamilton Church in Tippah Association. Clayton is a graduate of Blue Mountain College.



Littlejohn

Jim Burnett began serving as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Lincoln County, on Jan. 1.

He received a degree from University of Southern Mississippi and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Burnett, from Rankin County, was licensed and ordained by First Church, Brandon.



Burnett

Stanley Barnett has been called as pastor of North Calvary Church, Philadelphia, effective on March 1. He is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. Barnett goes from First Church, Pearl, where he has served since 1977. Prior to that he served churches in Alabama and Mississippi including East Philadelphia and Oakland Heights, Meridian.

James H. (Jimmy) Young, Jr. has accepted the call to become pastor of Hope Church (Neshoba) effective March 1. He had been pastor of New Hope Church (Leake Association) since December, 1975.

Agricola Church (George County) has called Tom Jenkins as music and activities director/assistant pastor. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

Musicians find challenge in small-church ministry

NASHVILLE (BP) — Leading a music ministry in a small church can be both rewarding and frustrating, according to participants in a seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

About 60 people attended the first "Music Leaders in the Small Church" seminar sponsored by the board's church music department.

Steve McAnally, a volunteer music director for First Baptist Church of Belmont, Miss., left an associate in charge of his concrete business to attend the seminar. McAnally was "drafted from the choir" to become director when the church's full-time

minister of music resigned two years ago.

"My biggest challenge has been my lack of formal musical training," he admitted. "But I have a good group of people in choir. Some are musically trained, and they are a very cooperative group. They've made up for a lot of my shortcomings."

McAnally said directing church music "is probably the first thing, including making a living, I've immersed myself in and have enjoyed. I've seen the power of the Lord, in that I am least of all able to do what I have done. It's not without its discouraging times, but overall it's been a real blessing."

Revival dates

Concord, McCall Creek: March 10-12; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, praise service, 1:30 p.m.; Troy Bankston, evangelist; Jackie Calcote, music.

First, Lauderdale: March 12-15; Danny Lanier of Little Rock, evangelist; Myron Burris, Meridian, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services, 7:30 p.m.

Houston Road, Laurel: Mar. 12-15; Sunday at 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.; evangelist, Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon; vocalist, Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, Jackson; Greg Womble, pastor.

State Boulevard, Meridian: March 19-22; Fred Doerge from Joplin, Mo., evangelist; Eddie Ruddick, interim pastor.

Wayside, Vicksburg: March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m., service and luncheon, and 7:30 p.m.; Leo Lytle, pastor, Lakeside Church, Pineville, La., evangelist; Bill Britton, minister of music and youth, Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg, music evangelist; Michael Weeks, pastor.

Arkadelphia, Bailey: Mar. 12-15; evangelist, John Wilton, Long Beach; music leaders, Brad and Tammy Jones of Fifteenth Ave. Church, Meridian; David Odom, pastor.

Friendship, Grenada: ethics revival; Mar. 10-12; evening services plus a session on Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon on family relationships; speaker, Paul Jones, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Senior Adult Corner

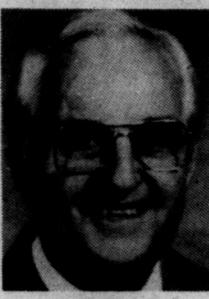
The L.J.F. (Love, Joy and Friendship) Club was treated to a Sweetheart Banquet, Feb. 14, by the youth of First Church, Tchula. The

youth and youth committee provided music, entertainment, and served a meal in fellowship hall. Ladell Blanton is pastor.

Staff changes



Burnett



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Piano dedication

A piano given as a memorial in honor of Robert Jewett Butler was dedicated in services at First Baptist Church, Lake. It is a Yamaha grand and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Wooten, shown above at left. Mrs. Wooten is a daughter of Butler. Two other daughters, Nona Sue Massey, right, and Judy Busbee, second from right, participated in the dedication service. Mrs. Massey, pianist at the church, accompanied her sister, Judy, in special music. A concert presented by Irene Martin, center, of Harperville was the main feature of the dedication service. Ken McLemore is pastor of the church.

Evangelists to hear Falwell, Hill, Blessitt

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Participants in the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will fan out across the streets of Las Vegas, June 14, after hearing speakers such as Jerry Falwell, E.V. Hill, and Arthur Blessitt.

The conference will meet from 1:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Las Vegas Convention Center. COSBE is one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 13-15 in the convention center.

Jay Strack, an evangelist from Dallas, and president of the conference, said the meeting will adjourn early enough so that participants can "go out and distribute about 10,000 New Testaments and 10,000 gospel tracts on the streets of Las Vegas."

"With evangelism down and baptisms down (in the SBC), it behooves us to be at the vanguard of anything that has to do with winning people to Christ. We encourage pastors, wives, messengers and anyone else to leave the convention hall with us that Wednesday afternoon and hand them (the testaments and tracts) out," he added.

"We wanted a program that would feature some men not on any other program. We wanted to bring in some people who would generate some curiosity," Strack said.

"Our desire was to have men the evangelists and preachers would want to hear. Many times in the past, we have used non-Southern Baptists to challenge us; men such as Charles Swindoll and D. James Kennedy. We now seem to be in a place as a convention that we are willing to hear some other voices challenging us to do what we ought to do."

Falwell, an independent Baptist pastor and television evangelist, will speak on church planting, Strack said.

"Most of the men who pastor what we call mega churches sometimes have not had an emphasis on church planting. But Dr. Falwell has had a tremendous emphasis on planting churches. It has been a recurring theme (for Falwell) for about a year and a half," Strack said.

COSBE officers "feared there would

be more emphasis on Dr. Falwell than on evangelism. We wanted to generate some curiosity and to hear a new, fresh voice," he said.

The Dallas evangelist said he had "heard the rumors Falwell was going to become a Southern Baptist," but said that was not the reason the Lynchburg, Va., pastor was invited. "We have no hidden agenda. Virtually all of our organization loves Dr. Falwell. We feel a lot of folks want to hear him and that he is going to bring a very positive message," Strack said.

Theme for the conference will be "The New Testament Way to Revival," he added.

In addition to Falwell, another speaker is Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Los Angeles, a black Baptist.

Robert McGee, president of RAPHA, a Christian drug and alcohol counseling organization with centers in several cities, including Houston, also will speak.

The final speaker will be Blessitt, an evangelist from Hollywood, Calif., who has dragged a cross across much of the nation and world.

"We have asked Arthur to bring his cross, and when he has spoken, to lead us out to witness to Las Vegas," Strack said.

In addition to the annual meeting, COSBE is planning two other events. First, the group is trying to get about 100 vocational evangelists into Las Vegas for a saturation evangelism effort Saturday, June 11, Strack said.

The second effort will be "Afterglow" sessions in the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel from 10 to 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13-14. The Afterglows will feature mini-concerts by music evangelists.

In addition to Strack, COSBE officers are Delton Dees, St. Louis, vice president; Steve Hale, Evansville, Ind., secretary-treasurer; John Bos, Orlando, Fla., music director; Alan Celoria, Smithdale, Miss., assistant music director; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., parliamentarian; Fred Lowery, Bossier City, La., pastor-advisor; and Tom McEachin, Atlanta, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board liaison.

Homecomings

Lula Church, Lula: 130th year; March 12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Henning Andrews, former pastor, guest speaker; Tommy Howard, Graceland, Memphis, music; Gerald Castillo, pastor.

Holly Springs, Brookhaven: March 19; Harold McClendon, speaker; lunch served, followed by business meeting and gospel singing; all proceeds will go to upkeep of cemetery.

Goal of Baptists in São Paulo, Brazil, is to start 1,000 new churches before A.D. 2000.

BMC gets Sears grant

Unrestricted grants totaling more than \$5,200 were distributed to four privately supported colleges and universities in Mississippi by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, states James Byers, CSO manager of Sears.

Blue Mountain College received \$500 of this amount. The college is among 735 private accredited four-year institutions sharing in \$1,200,000 in Sears-Roebuck Foundation funds for the 1988-89 academic year. Funds may be used as the colleges and universities deem necessary.

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Thursday, March 9, 1989

Just for the Record



Wildwood Church, Springridge Road, Clinton, will hold "Open House" on Sunday, March 19, from 2-4 p.m., for the new 1.2 million dollar education plus kitchen/fellowship hall facility. The building committee members are: Phil Chisolm, chairman, David Ballard, Ray Berry, Leo Bourlet, Jeff Brunson, Bobby Covington, Susan Daugherty, Lamar Goff, Rob Green, Elmer Johnson, Ernie Kilman, Dickey King, James Lane, Sid Johnson, and Fred Womack, ex-officio member.

The architects were Dean, Dale and Dean and building contractor was Copeland and Johns Inc.



Macedonia Church, Mendenhall, recently celebrated the purchase of 15 additional acres of land by burning the note. Portions of this additional land will be used to enlarge the cemetery. Pictured, left to right, are A. G. Weathersby; Don Wallace; Theo Boggan, chairman of building and grounds committee; Charles M. Case, pastor; Lloyd Sanders, church treasurer; Joe Boggan, and John Byars, deacon chairman.

Names in the news

Melvin Walker is the new administrator at Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto. He formerly was associate administrator of Baxter County Regional Hospital in Mountain Home, Ark. MBH-DeSoto opened on Aug. 1, 1988. It has 100 acute care beds and a 30-bed rehabilitation unit.

Teresa D. Dickens joined the *Word and Way* staff Feb. 1 as a news writer. *The Word and Way* is the state paper of Missouri Baptists. Miss Dickens, 29, holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary; she did graduate work in journalism at Arkansas State University and holds a bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi. Among other jobs, she has been a high school teacher in Mississippi and a copy editor and staff writer for the Hattiesburg American.

More than 50,000 radio and 2,000 TV programs were produced to broadcast the gospel in 1987.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- March 12 Home Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis)
- March 12-19 Youth Week (in each church)
- March 13 Church Building Conference; Lebanon Assn. Bldg.; Hattiesburg; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (PD)
- March 14 Senior Adult Leadership & Enrichment Day; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; FBC, Laurel/FBC, Gulfport/FBC, McComb (Fam. Min.-CT)
- Church Building Conference; Pontotoc Assn. Bldg.; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (PD)
- March 17-18 Third Grade GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 17th-12:30 p.m., 18th (WMU)

First Church, Natchez, will celebrate its 172nd anniversary of the founding of the church and the 10th anniversary of the relocation of the church on D'Evereaux Drive. Following the 11 a.m. service, a covered dish luncheon will be served in the family life center and at 4 p.m. the sanctuary choir will present a program of anthems and hymns accompanied by a 30-member orchestra. Odean Puckett is pastor.

Primera Iglesia, the Spanish Baptist Church in Biloxi, celebrated its tenth anniversary on Feb. 5, with dinner at the church and special services. The church baptized eight people on Christmas Day. They reached their Lottie Moon goal of \$500.

Active Christian Singles presents for its Easter program Bert Bryant, former Nashville musician and singer now minister with Impact Ministries, in gospel concert with Alvin Holman and Pam Houston of Vicksburg, March 11, 7 p.m. at Flowood Auditorium in Flowood. For more information, call 932-1754, 939-7110, or 956-9524.

Southern Hills Church, Henderson Road, Jackson, will celebrate its 23rd anniversary, March 19. Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., and dinner on the grounds following morning worship service. There will be no evening services. John Cockrell is pastor.

NOVI SAD, Yugoslavia — Thirty-four Baptists who lead youth work in 18 European countries have underscored "the urgent need for a renewal of Christian believers and churches in Europe." They passed a resolution in January stating, "We long for a stronger manifestation of the Kingdom of God and his healing power in our churches and societies."

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Larry Gregg, recently named assistant director of prospective student services at Southern Seminary, will coordinate services for persons in Mississippi and six other states.

Gregg will make periodic visits to Mississippi and will also arrange visits to the Louisville, Ky., campus for Mississippi Baptists who are considering seminary. As a service to prospective students, the seminary will provide two nights lodging and meals during a campus visit.

Mississippi Baptists wanting information about the seminary can contact Gregg toll free at 1 (800) 626-5525.

Edsol Wells, who has been in the ministry since 1951, will retire March 31. He and his wife will be honored at a retirement ceremony March 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Immanuel Church, Natchez.

Retired minister Artis and Cleo Brewer will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Mar. 19, 2-4 p.m., at First Church of Sharon, Laurel.

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Extension center gives schedule

NEW ORLEANS — The schedule of classes has been announced for Term IV of the 1988-89 academic year at the Clinton extension center of New Orleans Seminary.

All courses are accredited for the master of divinity, master of religious education, and associate of divinity degree programs, and are held at Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.

Registration for master's level courses will be at 1 p.m. Monday, March 27. Classes will meet on Mondays, March 27 through May 15.

Master's level courses offered dur-

ing Term IV will be "Church History" (1-5 p.m.), and "Field Education" (6-10 p.m.).

Registration for associate level courses will be Tuesday, March 28. Classes will meet from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 28-May 18. Courses offered will be "New Testament Elective" (Tuesdays), and "Free Elective" (Thursdays).

For more information, contact the Registry Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

The gospel spreads among the Gentiles

By Bert Breland

Acts 11:1-30

Following the great victory at Cornelius' house, Peter returned to Jerusalem and met with sharp criticism. The party of the circumcision wanted to know why he had eaten with uncircumcised men. Apparently they were a group of Jewish Christians within the Jerusalem church who believed one must become a Jew before he could become a Christian. Their attack, however, was not about whether or not these Gentiles were saved, but rather it was about social customs

and whether or not Peter should have eaten with them. This type of sniping and avoidance of real issues is typical of the "critical party" in any church. Regardless of their approach, Peter understood the real issue and he addressed it by recounting for them how God had directed him every step of the way.

Breland

BIBLE BOOK

After having finished his account of the events, Peter put the question to them as directly as God had dealt with him when he said, "If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" (RSV). At this point the party of the circumcision was silenced and everyone praised God that the Gentiles had received salvation.

In the very first lesson we stated that the purpose of the book of Acts was to show the "liberation of the gospel as it breaks through barriers that are religious, racial, and national." This experience in the life of Peter, like so many before it and those that will follow, are used by Luke to show how the gospel was being liberated. Unfortunately, this experience ended up being the exception rather than the rule for the church at Jerusalem and that church's ministry.

In verse 19, Luke makes a departure from

discussing Peter and he introduces the great missionary church at Antioch. Luke definitely believed that the great work at Antioch was begun by men who were influenced by Stephen. Previously he had tied the conversion of the apostle Paul to the influence of Stephen. In Luke's mind it was Stephen and his spirit that had sparked the liberation of the gospel. Antioch would become the center of the genuine missions to the Gentile world.

It is interesting to note that those who are scattered because of the persecution went out preaching, but they were preaching to Jews only. Of this exclusive ministry to Jews there is no news of a great revival or any great churches being formed. However, when some of these Christians finally decided to open the gospel up to the Gentiles in Antioch, suddenly a revival began! God richly blessed a ministry that was inclusive. It said that the "hand of the Lord was with them" who were preaching an inclusive gospel, and the implication was that the hand of the Lord was not with those who were exclusive in their preaching. The evidence of the truth of this is with us today. The Chris-

tian church flourishes among Gentiles, while there is no great Christian tradition within the nation of Israel.

As we might have expected, as soon as the Jerusalem church heard of the missionary activity in Antioch, they sent someone to investigate. Fortunately for those in Antioch, they sent Barnabas, a man filled with the Holy Spirit and able to recognize the hand of God at work. If the Jerusalem church had expected Barnabas to go to Antioch and get things under control, they were sorely disappointed. Instead of putting out the fire, he began to fan the fires of revival. Then he did what any Christian should do when something good has happened: he found someone to share it with. Barnabas did what might be considered one of the most significant acts in the spreading of the gospel to all the world. He brought Saul of Tarsus, who would become the great missionary to Gentiles, to the church at Antioch which would become the launching pad of Gentile missions.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Love: God's greatest and

By Greg Martin

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Divinely placed between the turbulent chapters of 12 and 14 about tongues and other spiritual gifts is Paul's dissertation concerning love. This 13th chapter has been called "God's Golden Chapter." It is about God's most enduring word, LOVE. If divorced from its context all we have is a brief message about brotherly love. If taken out of context, all we have is a heartwarming poem.

The love chapter was placed in between these confusing chapters concerning spiritual gifts to remind us that love in the church is essential. Verse 31 teaches the way of love sets all of God's gifts in proper relationship. Love should be the way Christians manifest their common life, including spiritual gifts. In seeking for gifts from God, the believer should make the love of God his highest priority.

The word "love" or "charity" is the Greek word "agape." It is the most self-sacrificing kind of love mentioned in the Bible. It is the kind

Martin

LIFE AND WORK

of love God demonstrated in sending his Son to be the Savior of the world (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). God's type of love is what all Christians need. God's love will strengthen and sweeten a local church's fellowship.

Superiority of love (13:1-3)

God's love is superior to anything in heaven or on earth. It is the greatest thing in the world. It is greater than the gifts we receive (verses 1-2). To have the gift of tongues or prophecy or faith without love is essentially to have nothing. God knows that no spiritual gift he gives can substitute for his love being present in the believer's life.

God's love is also greater than any gift we could give (verse 3). To feed the poor or even offer one's body for someone else's sake with an impure motive is to profit nothing. Love is measured with more than a dollar sign or price tag. It has some characteristics that can't always be equated with physical expressions of benevolence.

Substance of love (13:4-7)

Love is defined perhaps no place better than in our present text. Love is something that is

most enduring word

active, not static. It is more than a feeling. It is action as God himself would respond. It is having actions and attitudes that Jesus possessed.

It affects our relationship with others (verse 4a). God's love makes you patient with the irritable. It makes you show kindness to those who are harsh. Love keeps you from envying the success of others even if their success was at your expense.

Love also affects your relating to yourself (verses 4b-5a). It doesn't boast of one's accomplishments because it is secure in the Lord. Love doesn't harbor an arrogant attitude. It doesn't seek its own wealth or happiness, but those of others. God acted this way when he sent Jesus for us.

Love also has a relationship to sin (verses 5b-6). Love is not provoked to anger. It forgives those who wrong without a record of their sins. Love refuses to rejoice in things that are against God's standards and will. Love only finds joy in truth and honesty.

Love also relates to circumstances (verse 7). It can bear any burden, believe God in any situation, hope for the best, and endure any outcome. Why? The reason is because people who have God's love know God is in control of them

and their circumstances. Romans 8:28 reminds us that "we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Surety of love (13:8a, 13)

A final thing that can be learned about love is the permanency of it. It is more lasting than our American construction. It's more solid than the Rocky Mountains. Verse 8 reminds us it will never fail. Verse 13 tells us it is greater than faith or hope. It is greater than any spiritual gift. There will always be a need for God's love. To have God's love is to have God, for God is love (1 John 4:16). To love others is to do what God does. As long as there is breath, there is a need for God.

Conclusion

Have you experienced God's love by trusting Christ as your Savior? Jesus manifested the substance of love more than any man, all for you. Trust his salvation. As a Christian, are you growing in God's grace and continually experiencing God's life changing love? Ask him daily to manifest his love in your life. His Word assures us he is eager to fill our hearts with his love.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

Citizens of a new kingdom

By Gary G. Berry
Colossians 1:14

Even those who go to church and carry Bibles may forget many of the blessings which come as a result of being born into the kingdom of God. A study of this passage of Scripture will serve as a reminder of what it means to be redeemed and included into the family of God.

In verses 1-2, Paul greeted his Colossian brothers. (This would include the sisters as well.) The apostle addressed them as saints. If one hears that word today, he may think of a pious person who has attained a certain

status as a result of many good works. The word saint in the New Testament does not emphasize what a person has done, but rather what God has done. Neither does the word emphasize the character of the person, but the activity of God in redeeming that person and setting him apart for himself. If one has been saved, he is a saint; set apart for the purpose and praise of God.

Berry

UNIFORM

The saints are brothers (and sisters) in Christ. They not only belong to God, they are a part of each other. If all born-again Christians are brothers in Christ, how can one deny his brothers? If one denies brother, is he not also denying his Father? When one denies the fellowship of God's family of blood-bought children, he denies the purpose of God which is to create a people for himself.

Paul gave thanks to God for their faith and love which came about through their response to the gospel (verses 3-5). Both faith and love are inner qualities whose existence must find expression. Where love is not expressed, or where faith is not exercised, the evidence is conclusive that they do not exist. What a blessing if believers today were examples of faith and love!

The Christian has security because of his hope in what God is doing (verse 5). Regardless of present circumstances, the Christian's future is secure. "The world didn't give it to us and the

world can't take it away."

These Christians at Colossae had heard the truth of the gospel through Epaphras who was a faithful minister (verses 7-8). Epaphras was a former pastor of this flock who had concern for their present welfare because of "wolves in sheep's clothing" who were teaching false doctrine to them. He was sent back to them on Paul's behalf to encourage them and to teach them truth.

A beautiful prayer for the brothers and sisters in Christ follows in verse 9ff. The body of Christ would be stronger today if Christians prayed like this for each other. This prayer was characterized by persistence. It focused upon the spiritual welfare of its subjects. Christians today should pray for their loved ones and their church family by asking God to fill them with: (1) the knowledge of his will, (2) spiritual wisdom and understanding, (3) the wherewithal to lead a life worthy of the Lord and a life that bears fruit for God's glory, (4) an increasing knowledge of God and, (5) strength for endurance. Imagine how different families and churches will be when God answers that prayer!

Redemption is a blessing which should forever cause us to give thanks and praise to God (verses 12-14). An old man who has gone to be with the Lord always included a tearful word of gratitude in his prayers. He would say: "Lord, I know I didn't deserve it, but I thank you for saving this sinful old man, and for making a place at your big ole table for me." How could anyone ever fail to give praise and thanksgiving to God for redeeming him?

Perhaps someone has been saved for such a time that he has forgotten what Jesus did to save him. A reminder of what God has done should break down the barriers to praise and thanksgiving. He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saint. He has rescued us from the dominion of dark and evil powers and placed us in the kingdom where Jesus is king. He has emancipated us! He has forgiven, literally sent away, our sins. This is what Jesus has done for those who have come to him in faith through repentance and confession of sin and asked him to be Lord and Savior of their life. By his grace and power, thank God we are free at last from the mastery of sin.

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

RIES

Baptists

Controversy

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey, who survived an attempt to oust him 14 months ago by a group of conservative Georgia Baptists, once again is the center of controversy over his failure to alert trustees to a multimillion-dollar operating deficit.

The \$14 million deficit, which accumulated over the past five years was revealed publicly Dec. 2, after a two-day meeting of trustees of the Georgia Baptist school, which has campuses in Macon and Atlanta and residence centers across the state.

Godsey said then that he had used "poor judgment" in not informing the board of any deficits until 1986, and then not fully informing it of the magnitude of the problem.

University officials projected that without drastic cuts, the total operating deficit could exceed \$20 million by the time this fiscal year ends June 30.

The school's vice president for finance, Robert Skelton, whom Godsey said was responsible for the accounting procedures that masked the severity of the deficits, resigned Dec. 2.

The trustees met again Jan. 27 and approved a package of budget cuts recommended by a special trustee committee as well as a set of fiscal procedures designed to give them more control over the university's finances.

Edward J. Harrell, the trustee who chaired the committee, said he believes the university can achieve a balanced budget in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

Godsey's critics, both inside and outside the university, have not been soothed by the budget solutions.

They say Godsey's vision for a comprehensive university, evidenced by Mercer's rapid growth and the crea-

among Gentiles, while
ian tradition within the

spected, as soon as the word of the missionary activity sent someone to inform those in Antioch, they filled with the Holy Spirit the hand of God at work. Church had expected Barnabas and get things under way disappointed. Instead of began to fan the fires of at any Christian should good has happened: he dealt with. Barnabas did spread one of the most spreading of the gospel right Saul of Tarsus, who became a missionary to Gentiles, which would become Gentile missions.

orth Greenwood Church,

Romans 8:28 reminds us that we work together for God, to them who are his purpose."

e (13:8a, 13)
be learned about love. It is more lasting than emotion. It's more solid than desire. Verse 8 reminds us it will always be greater than any spiritual need. Romans 8:28 says, "We know that God's love for us is greater than any spiritual need we have." Romans 8:28 also says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This verse reminds us that God's love is greater than any spiritual need we have.

usion

and God's love by trusting Jesus Christ. He manifested the love of God more than any man, all for us.

As a Christian, are you experiencing love? Are you continually exchanging love? Ask him to fill your heart with his love.

mission Road Church,

SCB



lessing which should be given to the old man who has gone. My dad always included a tearful prayer. He would say: "Lord, thank You for this old man, and for making a table for me." How do we give praise and honor to God for redeeming him? We have been saved for such a short time. What Jesus did to us is what God has done for us. We have barriers to praise and qualified us to share in His kingdom. He has rescued us from darkness and evil powers and brought us where Jesus is king. Praise God! He has forgiven our sins. This is what Jesus came to do. To have come to him in confession and confession of sin. Lord and Savior of their lives, thank God we are free from the power of sin.

—T. McComb.

Baptist Record

Controversy surrounds Godsey

By Audrey Post

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey, who survived an attempt to oust him 14 months ago by a group of conservative Georgia Baptists, once again is the center of controversy over his failure to alert trustees to a multimillion-dollar operating deficit.

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Godsey's critics, both inside and outside the university, have not been soothed by the budget solutions.

They say Godsey's vision for a comprehensive university, evidenced by Mercer's rapid growth and the crea-

tions of an engineering school and a medical school in the past decade, led to the financial problems.

Further, they say his failure to make the trustees, faculty, and students aware of the deficits reveals that his desire for self-aggrandizement took priority over the good of the university.

Godsey's statement Jan. 27 that he, too, was unaware of the severity of the deficits has been called by faculty, alumni and even some trustees, "an attempt to rewrite history."

Unlike late 1987 — when some of Godsey's harshest critics supported him when a group of conservatives led by Marietta layman Lee Roberts challenged Godsey's morals, his beliefs, his relationship to Southern Baptist Convention moderates, and Mercer's curriculum as inappropriate for a Baptist-affiliated university — Godsey's support appears to be eroding:

The faculties of the College of Liberal Arts on the Macon campus and the College of Arts and Sciences on the Atlanta campus passed resolutions before the January trustee meeting calling for Godsey to resign.

The board of trustees, which unanimously gave Godsey a vote of confidence at the December meeting when the deficits were revealed, affirmed that confidence Jan. 27 with a 28-5 vote.

One trustee, a local Superior Court judge, asked that his "no" vote be announced at the press conference after the meeting. Another trustee said that even if Godsey hadn't known about the deficits, he should have.

The Georgia Baptist Convention appointed a Mercer Study Committee to review the financial and administrative problems at the university.

The GBC gives \$3 million per year to Mercer — of a total budget of \$89 million — but the GBC's contributions are in cash.

The Mercer Committee is to give its report to the GBC executive committee March 14.

Both the Georgia secretary of state's office and the federal Securities and Exchange Commission are conducting inquiries into a 1985 revenue bond issue to determine whether Mercer misrepresented its financial condition to underwriters for the \$41 million bond issue.

The law firm of King & Spalding of Atlanta, was the bond counsel. One other partner in that firm, former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, is also a Mercer trustee. In addition, the insurance company that guaranteed the bonds is investigating.

Alumni and supporters of Tift College, a Baptist-affiliated women's college that merged with Mercer in 1986 and which Mercer subsequently closed, say the operating deficits prove that Mercer needed Tift's assets and endowment.

The group, known as SavTift, filed suit challenging the merger. SavTift won the first round, but the Georgia Supreme Court overturned the decision.

The district attorney reviewed the transcripts of Godsey's testimony in the 1987 trial — during which Godsey denied that any portion of the university ended fiscal 1987 with a deficit — but the prosecutor found insufficient evidence to bring perjury charges.

One court official said that because the operating deficits were transferred to another account used for long-range capital expenditures, they technically no longer were deficits.

Audrey Post is a staff writer for the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph-News.



Gene Bobo, O.K. Carr, James Nutt, Leslie Wooten, Bobby Brewer, Glenn Switzer Sr., Taylor Wallace, Vincent Mullins, Tony Smith, Baxter Porter, and Glenn Switzer Jr.

Natchez volunteers work in Florida

Mississippi Baptists are involved in the construction of Sugarloaf Baptist Mission, Sugarloaf Key, Fla. Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, has sent workers for the past three years.

Presently, Glenn and Rhonda Switzer have been at Sugarloaf since Jan. 2. Recently, ten men from Louisiana and Mississippi spent one week installing insulation and hanging sheetrock. The crew consisted of Baxter Porter, Monterey, La., Glenn Switzer, Sr.; Ferriday, La., Taylor

Wallace and James Nutt; Enterprise, MS, Bobby Brewer; Quitman, MS; and Vincent Mullins, O.K. Carr, Tony Smith, Leslie Wooten, and Gene Bobo; all of Natchez.

Services are currently being held at an elementary school across the street from the church site. This mission is the only church between Key West and Big Pine Key, a span of 40 miles.

Mark Beasley was the church planter and now serves as pastor.

CLC files first briefs in Supreme Court cases

NASHVILLE (BP) — For the first time, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined in filing friend-of-the-court briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The CLC, the social and moral concerns agency for the 14.8-million-member denomination, joined with Citizens for Decency through Law in a pornography case, and with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the National Association for Evangelicals in an abortion case.

A friend-of-the-court brief is a legal opinion presented by an interested party urging the court to issue a cer-

tain kind of conclusion.

A press release concerning the abortion case said the three organizations had asked in their brief that the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that permitted legalized abortions.

In the pornography case, the commission joined Citizens for Decency through Law, an Arizona organization specializing in legal issues related to pornography, in urging the high court to uphold a federal anti-pornography statute.

In the abortion case, the CLC joined Missouri Synod Lutherans and NAE in urging the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of a Missouri law restricting the practice of legalized abortions.

The pornography case, Federal Communications Commission v. Sable, grew out of a challenge to a new federal law against indecent and obscene speech via telephone line.

To sleep

I hope when I allow myself to sleep
That death not follow soon,
Since I have dreams that I must
dream to keep
Me circling round the moon.

If sleep should come when I am
unaware
Of his sweet-scented breath,
Then unto God my soul must go for
care,
And victory in death.

—Wm. W. Warwick
Jackson

My caretaker

God is my road map,
My guiding light.
He is my compass,
He is my sight.

God knows my heart
From without and within
He is my Protector,
My Savior, my Friend.

My God cares for me
Day after day.
Continue to watch over me,
Dear God, I pray.

—Glenda Davis
Louisville, Miss.

Baptist Record

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Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

SCRAPBOOK



Drama in ice

This is a beautiful sunny afternoon. It's appreciated even more after severe cold and freeze. I just had to say, "Thank you, Lord."

Then when I thought of the recent drama in ice that held me spellbound, right in front of my window, I found myself again saying, "Thank you, Lord!"

On the dogwoods by the walk and the peach tree by the house, in front of the window, the misting rain froze and made diamonds — beautiful to behold. Many of the diamonds were in clusters, some in droplets hanging down. Even on cloudy days there was enough light to sparkle the diamond

"Bright New Wings" — The followers of Jesus explain how their lives became new after they met Jesus. Popular religious musicians, Ragan Courtney and Cynthia Clawson and actress, Jeannette Clift George

trees.

When the sun peeped out to enhance the drama, it was a fairy winter wonderland in dazzling, sparkling brilliance that exceeded Disney's most spectacular achievement.

You haven't heard it all yet . . . There's a street light in front. At night the light shone on the diamond covered trees. They glistened and glistened, especially in a breeze, so breath-takingly beautiful, I didn't want to go to bed. I wanted to stay, and not count time . . . just drink in the beauty of God's special gift.

—Ruby Singley
Columbia

star in this adaption of the Eastern story set in the Old West. "Bright New Wings" airs on ACTS Thursday, March 23 at 8:00-9:00 p.m. Central. The special replaces "Invitation To Life."

March 9, 1989

Survey finds American adults biblically illiterate

GLENDALE, Calif. (EP) — It may come as no surprise that most people read the Bible infrequently, or not at all. What may be more surprising is that the majority of born-again Christians fall into this category. In a recent survey of 641 American adults, the Barna Research Group examined how often Americans read the Bible, and how much they know about the Scriptures.

Ninety-three percent of all Americans own a Bible. However, half of them say they never read it, including 23 percent of all born-again Christians. Only 18 percent of all born-again Christians polled said they read

the Bible every day, while another 18 percent read it between three and six days a week, and 37 percent read it once or twice a week, other than at church.

Among Christians who do read the Bible, the median amount of time they say they spend reading it each time is 22 minutes.

Most born-again Christians who read the Bible said they had no preference between reading the Old Testament or the New Testament. While 60 percent had no preference, 35 percent preferred the New Testament, and only 4 percent said they would rather read the Old Testament.

Among non-Christians who read the Bible, 16 percent preferred the Old Testament, 24 percent preferred the New Testament, and 58 percent had no preference.

Besides examining readership of the Scriptures, the survey delved into people's knowledge of the Bible. Sixty-two percent of all Americans knew that the book of Isaiah is contained in the Old Testament, not the New. Ten percent thought it was in the New Testament, while 28 percent said they did not know where it was. Among born-again Christians 75 percent knew Isaiah was part of the Old Testament, but 11 percent thought it

was in the New and 13 percent weren't sure.

Survey respondents were also asked whether the Bible contained the Book of Jonah (which is in the Old Testament) and the Book of Thomas (which is not in the Bible). Not quite half of the respondents (48 percent) knew that the Book of Jonah was part of the Bible, including 61 percent of born-again Christians; 21 percent thought the non-existent Book of Thomas could be found in Scripture, with no difference in score between Christians and non-Christians.

Most people (70 percent) know that Jesus had 12 apostles, although

answers to this question ranged from two to 20. Among born-again Christians, 78 percent knew there were 12 apostles, while only 65 percent of non-Christians knew this.

Sixty-one percent of Americans polled knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, while 18 percent thought it was Jerusalem, and 8 percent said Nazareth. Among Christians, 70 percent knew Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The old adage "God helps those who help themselves" is often attributed to the Bible, 41 percent of people polled thought it was in the Bible, while 31 percent thought it was not, and 28 percent did not know.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST LIBRARY AND ARCHIVAL Historical Commission
Nashville, Tenn.

MC will present spring madrigal dinner

The Mississippi College Music Department, in conjunction with the college's Shakespeare Festival, will present the 12th annual spring madrigal dinner in Aven Fine Arts Building on campus at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31. The public is invited.

The evening of renaissance feasting will feature entertainment by jesters, jugglers, minstrels, players, and singers, as well as a concert of renaissance music performed by the Mississippi College Madrigal Singers. Complementing the con-

cert will be a brief renaissance comedy, as well as entertainment by numerous "strolling" musicians.

Tickets, priced at \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for students, must be obtained in advance through the Mississippi College Music Department, Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. 39058 (Phone 925-3230 or 925-3440 during office hours, or 924-0161 evenings).



Pictured are Jim and Loretta Pender at the send-off dinner given by Scott County Association prior to their heading to a bivocational ministry in Oregon.

Penders in Oregon

6 months to gain first new convert

By Tim Nicholas

Last September Mississippian James Pender took his family on a faith venture to the Pacific Northwest.

He went from the pastorate of Cash Baptist Church in Scott County to Merrill, Ore., to be pastor of a tiny Southern Baptist congregation there.

Pender had been fulltime pastor at Cash, but he knew he would have to return to a bivocational ministry which was his first pastorate eight years earlier. He was a saw filer in the lumber industry prior to entering Christian ministry and he believed he could return to that work to supplement his income in timber-oriented Oregon.

The Merrill church pays one third of what Cash paid him as pastor. But he could find nothing but some migrant potato harvesting work between September and December. Mrs. Pender told the Baptist Record that if it weren't for the Scott County Baptist Association and individual friends sending them money during those months, they couldn't have made it. Finally a neighbor offered Pender a job in sanitation work.

It's been a rough winter, says Mrs.

Pender. Everyone has gotten cabin fever from being snowed in all winter. Only this past week has the snow melted enough for people to get out and about.

Growth is slow, but sure. When he, his wife, Loretta, and their three children arrived in Merrill last September, the 10-year-old church was running about 22 in Sunday School. Today they average 36.

It took six months to gain the first adult profession of faith in that community. It was a woman whose parents have already begun shunning her. Her husband's family will do so also when she gets baptized. Revival started at the church this past Sunday.

Mrs. Pender says in Scott County the next Southern Baptist church was about two miles away. In Oregon, the next one is 20 miles away.

A total of 82 percent of the people in the area are lost, according to the state Baptist paper there. "We're still here," says Mrs. Pender, "because there are so many lost people who need to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

Chinese Christians might end Three-Self Movement

By Erich Bridges

SHANGHAI, China (BP) — Chinese Protestant leaders might abolish their Three-Self Patriotic Movement, according to recent reports.

Leaders of the Three-Self Movement and the China Christian Council reportedly discussed the proposal at a December meeting in Shanghai. Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), who heads both organizations, was said to have asked if the Three-Self Movement is still needed in light of

the Christian council's growth in recent years.

The Three-Self organization was formed by Chinese Protestants in the 1950s to promote self-support, self-control, and self-propagation of their churches. It represents Christians in dealings with society and Chinese government authorities. The China Christian Council handles internal church relationships, theological training, Christian publishing, and the like.

Three-Self has been plagued by a negative image in China and abroad because of persistent charges that it attempts to control local churches on behalf of the government. Some church leaders now believe the Christian council could carry out Three-Self's functions more effectively, observers report.

Protestant leaders also have discussed for several years the possible formation of a single, united

church body with a hierarchy and approved polity. Opposition from church groups favoring local autonomy, however, has caused leaders to slow down movement toward a national church.

Chinese Protestants now count about 5,000 churches and thousands of home meeting points, attracting millions of believers. Overall religious freedom continues to grow, according to Ding, but he has been increasingly

frank about disputes between churches and provincial or local government officials who refuse to recognize Christians' rights.

"Unfortunately, we still find persons here and there, mostly lower government cadres, who lack respect for the principle of religious freedom, Ding said in a recent interview. "There is much work yet to be done."

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Gambling again

Gambling, the issue swept aside in all of its forms a couple of weeks ago, has been re-established as a possibility by vote of the Senate.

With only two opposing votes, the Senate moved last week to suspend the rules of that body and pave the way to take up a gambling bill again. Specifically, it was a bill to "exempt certain cruise vessels operating in the Gulf of Mexico from certain restrictions . . ." A 500-foot cruise vessel is already operating in the Gulf of Mexico off the Mississippi coast, and the restrictions to be exempted in its case would be those against gambling in Mississippi Sound.

The two senators who voted against the suspension of the rules were Walter Graham of New Albany and George Guerieri of Southaven.

There are all kinds of things wrong with that procedure. They are almost too numerous to mention. In the first place, it is a desperate circumstance to set aside the rules by which a body governs itself. It should be done only on the rarest of occasions and only in the most demanding of circumstances. In this case, the action was taken in order to take up again an issue that has already been settled in

the Legislature. Last year the House declined to allow a casino boat to offer gambling in Mississippi Sound. This year the Legislature has already decided against a possible lottery and pari-mutuel gambling on greyhound racing.

In the second place, since the Legislature has already decided against gambling, why does the issue need to come up again? It has been settled. We need to be able to trust the Legislature regardless of what its decisions are. If it is to be indecisive, we won't know what to expect.

In the third place, the word from some senators is that the move to change the rules was brought up out of order when many were away from their desks because of other commitments. The feeling seems to be that this could have been a purposeful thing. There was no way to talk to all of the senators, of course, but Sen. Barbara Blanton, who is the writer's senator in Rankin County, reported that she registered the fact with the secretary of the Senate that the action coming out of the order called for on the calendar of the day caused her to miss the vote and that she would have voted against suspending the rules had she been there. She said others

had done the same.

With one vote passed to change the rules, there is no telling what issue will come to light to cause another change of the rules yet during this session. The deadline has passed for the consideration of bills in the house in which they originated, and the deadline has passed for introducing new bills. The Senate has voted to disregard the rules that it established in order that it could handle its business in an orderly fashion.

There is not much time left in this session. Those who are interested in what happens concerning gambling in Mississippi need to call or write their senators or representatives quickly.

There was already a resolution to change the rules before the House. That body will not need to vote on its own bill now. It can adopt the one to come out of the Senate, and the way will be paved for the consideration of legalizing gambling in Mississippi Sound.

The telephone number is 359-3770. The address for both senators and representatives is The State Capitol, Jackson, MS 39205.

In other action last week a Senate subcommittee killed a reasonable House bill that would have exempted



churches and other such nonprofit entities from a sales tax and substituted its own confusing bill which, if passed by the Senate, would have to go back to the House for adoption. Since the House version, adopted only three negative votes, differed so radically with that of the Senate, concurrence by the House might not be easy to

come by. There might not be a bill addressing the application of sales taxes to churches this year.

And there does not need to be a bill on gambling. Please let your legislator, both senator and representative, know how you feel about the issue.

Time is short.

Guest opinion . . .

Rope of sand

By Roy L. Honeycutt

Can you imagine anything weaker than a rope of sand?

Some years ago the Southern Baptist Convention produced a movie promoting the Cooperative Program. Producers gave that excellent film a strange but descriptive title — "A Rope of Sand."

The Cooperative Program is a financial rope. It's the way Southern Baptists fund missions, evangelism, and education. Through gifts to our congregation June and I participate in global mission responsibility. Monthly, the Honeycutt family converts a portion of our lives into currency and through the Cooperative Program we go around the world on mission with Christ.

The cord binding our cooperative giving and witnessing into a world dedication is as frail as a rope of sand. Despite that frailty, it sustains a world mission commitment.

What holds this "rope of sand" together? One of the two strands creating this "rope of sand" is Southern Baptist commitment to missions, evangelism, and education. We are mission-minded people. We always have been; and by God's grace, we always will be supporters of world missions. Individuals and congregations give money through the Cooperative Program because they believe in missions and ministries beyond their local congregations. Of

every dollar given to SBC organizations, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards receive 82 percent of their funds. Through the Cooperative Program and two special mission offerings we give 82 cents of every national dollar to world missions.

The second strand in this "rope of sand" consists of mutual trust and reciprocal confidence. Southern Baptists have historically trusted one another. Congregations have had confidence in their institutions and their elected denominational leaders.

Where are we now? Will financial recessions in some states diminish Cooperative Program giving to a dangerously low level? Will a "rope of sand" survive present denominational tensions? Can a single strand of missions commitment without trust and mutual confidence preserve our "rope of sand"?

Some individuals and congregations are reacting to political redirection in the convention by reviewing their support of our mission support system; our "rope of sand." We hear of congregations studying reductions in Cooperative Program allocations. A few are proposing to abandon that method of funding. Other congregational leaders are treating the Cooperative Program with benevolent neglect. They are unwilling to support it enthusiastically. Yet, they cannot in good conscience abandon a mission

support program with such demonstrated effectiveness.

Should we reduce our emphasis on the Cooperative Program, what will be the direct effect? Ask yourself these questions:

If 35,000 congregations follow our example, how will this impact our world mission effort? Often we assume that what we do affects no one else. Nothing could be farther from the truth, whatever the area of life. What you and I do influences other congregations and affects our total denominational ministry.

Will the action of my congregation affect missions and educational commitments directly? Budgetary reductions will penalize all convention ministries. For the first time since the Depression the Foreign Board has adopted a budget less than the previous year. Despite continuing inflationary factors and the need to expand ministries, most SBC organizations are projecting no growth in budgets.

Will specific individuals suffer because of the action of my congregation? Salaries of missionaries and seminary professors will experience reduction by actual or inflationary dollars. Is it your intention by reducing Cooperative Program support to decrease the salaries of individual missionaries and professors?

Without the Cooperative Program,

Japan partnership

Five objectives have been established by Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for Mississippi Baptists and one of two coordinators for the Mississippi-Japanese partnership evangelism campaign schedule for October.

There will be two sets of teams. The first will be in the Orient Oct. 2 to 17 and will be led by Harrell. The second will be there Oct. 16 to 31, and it will be led by Guy Henderson, evangelism director for the state convention.

Additional members are needed for both groups of teams.

The objectives Harrell mentioned were given to 65 volunteers who gathered at Camp Garaywa last week. They were to win the lost to Christ, to encourage the Christians, to

will our congregation continue to be a partner in world missions and the preparation of Christian ministers for Southern Baptist churches? Congregations will give up or diminish the opportunity to participate fully in Christ's mission to the world through Southern Baptist ministries. Some programs which a few congregations are beginning to fund instead of the Cooperative Program are worthy. Nonetheless, they are not denominational programs of missions, evangelism, and education.

Have we in our congregation earnestly sought God's will concerning how we collaborate with others through the Cooperative Program? I can evaluate neither properly nor ap-

propriately the actions of other persons. Nor would I appeal to a superficial discernment of God's will.

What can I do? I can reassess my response to current activities in the Southern Baptist Convention. Then I should ask myself a crucial question: Is my response governed by my own personal reaction or by a sense of God's will for me, my church, and my denomination? This is a time of testing for the "rope of sand" that binds Southern Baptists into a cooperating world mission partnership. Will God find us faithful in supporting Southern Baptist Convention ministries? May it be so, Lord.

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